

# Acton dart team off to Ont. finals this weekend

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

A few weeks ago, they knew of each other only as teammates. But this weekend, the Acton Legion dart team of Captain Rod Leech, Ken Jones, Ken Hilditch and Ed Ebbinge will come together as one in hopes of winning a Provincial title at the championships in Goderich Friday and Saturday.

"That's the big one," said Leech recently. "I'd be surprised if we went undefeated; no one goes undefeated at the Provincials."

After toppling over zone competition from such centres as Mississauga, Oakville, Georgetown, Milton and Brampton, Acton went undefeated at 6-0 in divisional play at the District finals in Scotland, Ont., on Feb. 25.

The local foursome, though, couldn't nail any doubles in the final, dropping two straight.

Leech, Jones and Ebbinge agree they've all reached a level where they're competitive in singles, doubles and team play.

"We've all played against each

other, so we know each other's calibre of play. We have the potential that if we all hit together, I don't think anyone can beat us," offered a confident Jones, who has played darts in Acton with Leech for 15 years.

Added Leech: "To come together and play as a team is great."

The 44-year-old threw a dart for the first time at age 12 and has never stopped. He came here from England in 1974 and four years later started playing competitively.

He noted the game has changed over the years. And to some extent, so has his desire to play.

"I'm starting to lose interest a little," he admitted between sips of a drink at the Legion. "I still play but not with as much intensity as I used to — unless I'm playing for money!"

Leech won the mixed triples event in Detroit and advanced to the final of the Tourney of Champions in New York back in 1990.

Jones played his first game 40 years ago as a 24-year-old at a pub in England. From there, he joined a pub team for two years before abandoning the sport for 17 years.

He then came to Acton, and has played regularly for 21 years.

"The fun for me is beating the top players. I've reached a level that I want to peak over and that's tough," said Jones, who was part of the Ontario team that competed in the Nationals in Regina in 1985.

"It's a great social game."

The zone sports officer for Acton, Hilditch, 37, began competitive play with Leech in '78, but currently only plays on Saturdays.

"He doesn't play often but he's

very strong in supporting people in darts," Leech said of his brother-in-law.

And Ebbinge, the rookie of the Legion Branch 197 squad at 27, was lured to the game 10 years ago by his best friend and uncle, Stan Rhynold.

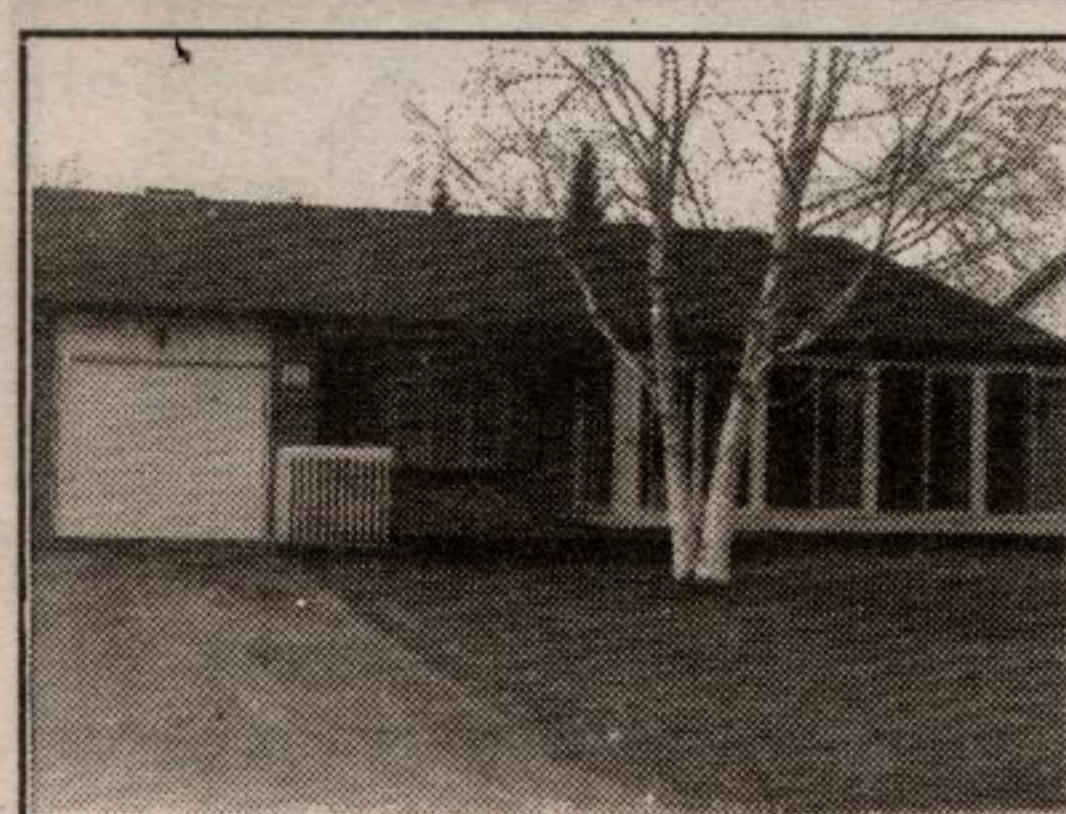
Ebbinge teamed with Rhynold to win the Ed Patterson tourney in Georgetown. But he lists this year's trip to the Ontario finals as his career highlight to date.

"I like the challenge to be the best. I'd rather sit at home and play darts than work," he states.

Leech, Jones and Ebbinge said they are bothered somewhat that darts is associated with drinking.

"People don't recognize it as a true sport, but I think it has more skill than 99 per cent of other sports," charged Jones.

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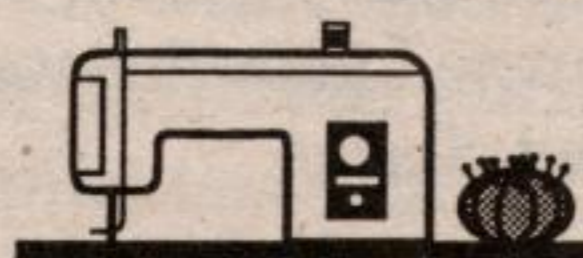
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## Cobblehill slated for summer repairs

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

Actonites with concerns about the reconstruction of Cobblehill Road have until tomorrow (Thursday) to register if they want to make a delegation to Council before the project is approved.

A by-law authorizing the reconstruction of Cobblehill Road

from Main Street to Cook Street will be before Council for approval at next Monday's meeting.

Council will also deal with a by-law that would temporarily close Cobblehill during construction, but staff reports the road will only be closed to cars if required and on a short-term basis of several days or less.

The \$400,000 June-to-September project involves rebuilding the now-deficient road to two-lane urban standards, with ditch inlets at the corner of Victoria Street and Cobblehill Road, and a new sidewalk.

At the same time, Halton Region will replace the water main and sanitary sewer on Cobblehill.



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